

Environment & Energy Commission

City of Columbia & Boone County

Daniel Boone Building, Third Floor Conference Room

Minutes of Tuesday 24 April 2007

Present: John Miles, Norm Lenhardt, Frank Cunningham, Jean Sax, Alyce Turner, David Brodsky, Bob Walters, Kip Kendrick

Absent: Liz Deken, Teresa Hunter

City Staff Liaison: Stephanie Brown

1. Miles opened the meeting with introductions. Kip Kendrick was introduced as the new city member for the EEC. Miles then called the meeting to order.
2. Agenda. Sax moved to approve the agenda without changes. Cunningham seconded.
3. Minutes. Sax moved to approve the minutes without changes. Lenhardt seconded.
4. Walters said that Deken would like to be kept on the e-mail list and wants to continue to help wherever she can. Walters said she suggested setting up a tour of a LEED platinum building. Brodsky suggested the DNR building.
5. Turner talked about the Clean Indoor Air Issue. She mentioned she was looking for volunteers to be a part of a new reorganization to oppose the bars in Columbia who are starting a petition to send to Council to challenge the Smoking Ban. She said interested people wanting to participate could come to the meeting on April 28, 2007 at the Boone County Government Building at 10 a.m.
6. P & Z report. Brodsky said Council looked at the annexation policies. A new ordinance may need to be created. Turner asked did it have to do with old plots coming into the city. Brodsky said when new land comes into the city it is at the city's discretion.
7. Miles had the guests introduce themselves. Brad McConnell was considering putting in a application to be on the commission. Miles asked him how had he heard about the commission. McConnell said he was on the visioning committee with Cunningham. Sarah Leson said she was from Columbia College and was there to observe state and local commissions. Priscilla Wilson was also from Columbia College studying state and local commissions.
8. Chris Starbuck, a horticulturist from MU Plant Science Department, was introduced as a resource of information regarding issues with the Tree Ordinance. Mary Kroening, who was originally on the agenda was not present. Starbuck said xeriscaping really is the key. Miles asked what is xeriscaping. Starbuck explained that it is the planting of native plants that do not require much care. Miles opened a question and answer period. Walters asked if he could come back as a speaker with some suggestions from him or his students for the Tree Ordinance. Miles asked Starbuck if the local nurseries were keeping inventory according to this subject. Lenhardt suggested placing vines in the parking lot or an arch over the parking lot for added shade and plant life. Brodsky said other companies use large wholesalers to buy native plants. He asked if there were any wholesalers near Columbia. Turner suggested community education. Starbuck's response to Brodsky's question of is it sensible to plant tree islands was it is if the

- tree can last 20 years. Brodsky suggested putting resources in the Tree Ordinance. Cunningham asked what can the Tree Ordinance mandate. Sax said the Sandy Springs Ordinance mentions building a culvert under the ground to allow water to get to the tree. Starbuck will be back on June 26. Starbuck suggested finding a way to preserve good soil. Walters said it's much easier to do that in residential areas. Starbuck said on the MU campus there are trees planted in big rocks with pockets of soil. This helps preserve the sidewalks as well.
9. Columbia Earth Day Review. Cunningham thanked Water and Light for their contribution to the EEC booth of the use of a solar panel. Alyce Turner said she would like to see some facts posted on the solar panel. He said from looking at the surveys, about half of the people surveyed have heard of the commission. Walters thought more handouts and giveaways were needed for next year. Turner thought an energy quiz would be a good idea. Walters suggested having a hybrid car for display. He also said that for next year it would be beneficial to be adjacent to the Water and Light booth. A report card on how the EEC is doing was also suggested. Turner said it was a neat effort to participate in Earth Day. She also noted that she would like to see a different set up for the booths of the vendors and the non-profit organizations.
 10. Solar Home Tour. Walters attempted to contact the people for a tour of their home, but got no response. He is no longer pursuing it. Turner said she knows some people in Boonville who have active solar panels that run their entire home with a woodstove for backup. Miles asked Turner to report back on that subject at a later meeting. Brodsky suggested the Synagogue on Green Meadows. Its new construction will be a LEED building. Miles said that may be better because it's closer.
 11. Measures of Energy Efficiency. Miles stated that the city had no scorecard to measure how much energy is used. He has been trying to persuade Dan Dasho, Director of Water and Light to measure the energy efficiency. Miles wanted to know how Columbia measures up to its peer cities as far as energy usage. Miles also stated that he was not aware of any other cities reporting their usage. Turner noted that Dasho said there has been an increase in energy consumption since the 1990's. Walters pointed out an article in "Newsweek" on environment and political leadership. Kendrick said people should be encouraged to buy more energy efficient products.
 12. Minority Viewpoint. Miles said this had to do with the letter from Lenhardt and Sax. He read a copy of his own written response and inquired of the status of the letter to Council. There has been no response yet.
 13. Announcements. Walters made a suggestion on a computer waste and recycle program. He said there is a man in Fulton, MO that refurbishes computers to be given away or he properly disposes of them. Turner noted that Jefferson City charges for extra trash put out and that this could increase recycling. Kendrick said he would look at the Recycling Ordinance conflicts. Cunningham said he would look into the subject of solar energy.
 14. Upcoming events on the May agenda include: elections for a new Chair and Vice Chair; the status on the CO2 emissions report; the solar home tour; computer recycling; energy usage;
 15. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Prepared by: Stephanie Brown, City Staff Liaison